St. Anthony of Padua

5770 N. Maroa
Fresno, Ca 93704-2038
(559) 439-0124 Fax: (559) 439-3050
www.stanthonyfresno.org

Parish Office Hours:
Monday - Thursday: 8:00am - 4:30pm
{closed: 12:00—1:00pm for lunch}
Friday: 8:00 - 12:00pm

Pastor: Rev. Msgr. Robert D. Wenzinger
Pastor Emeritus: Rev. Msgr. Laserian Byrne
In Residence: Rev. Msgr. Myron Cotta, V.G.
Chief Financial Officer: Mr. Thomas Neumeier

Parochial Vicar: Rev. Loren Blessing
Rev. Ricardo D. Magdaleno
Deacon: Rev. Mr. Edward C. Valdez
Administrative Assistant: Mrs. Mary Mosier

Mass Schedule

Saturday: 8:00am, 5:15pm (Vigil Mass)
Sunday: 8:00am, 9:30am, 11:00am, 6:00pm,
1:00 (Spanish), 3:30pm (Latin)

Daily Mass Schedule:
Sept.—May: Monday - Thursday: 6:45am, 8:00am
Friday: 6:45am, 8:45am

First Friday: 5:30pm (Chapel)
Primer Viernes: 7:00pm (Hora Santa) Capilla

Perpetual Adoration

24 hours a day, 7 days a week located in the Parish Office

Sacrament of Reconciliation (confesiones)

Saturday: 11:00am - 12:00pm **AND** 2:30pm - 4:30pm

St. Anthony's School

5680 N. Maroa, Fresno, Ca 93704
(559) 435-0700 Fax: (559) 435-6749
www.sasfresno.com

St Agnes Mission Church

111 W. Birch St. 439-2100

Office Hours: Monday - Friday: 9:00 - 2:00pm
Saturday: 11:00 - 2:00pm

Mass Schedule:
Sunday: 9:00am, 10:30am (Spanish)
Monday - Saturday: 7:00am

Sacrament of Reconciliation (Bilingual)
Saturday 8:30 - 9:30am

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
Monday - Wednesday: 7:00pm

Third Sunday of Advent
December 13 2009

Advent Prayer

God of hope and promise, as we spend this Advent season in anticipation and hope of your arrival, we ask that your soothing presence be with us. Too often the expectations of our commercialized culture and our family obligations make us feel overextended and anxious. Help us to center on our journey toward Bethlehem. Give us calm moments in which to contemplate the purpose of this time of waiting. May your presence be part of all our preparations and planning. Give us ears to hear the alleluias of the angels. Lead us toward the manger. Guide us with your star to a place of joy and repose. (The Essential Catholic Prayer Book) **Amen**

WINTER HOLIDAY SCHEDULE ~ ST. ANTHONY'S

Las Mañanitas
December 12 — 5:00am and 5:30am Mass

Advent Penance Service
December 14 — 7:00pm

Christmas Eve
December 24 — 4:00pm, 6:30pm, 9:00pm, 12:00am (Midnight Mass)

Christmas
December 25 — 8:00am, 9:30am, 11:00am, 1:00pm (Spanish), 3:30pm (Latin Traditional)
No evening Mass Christmas Day

New Years Day
January 1, 2010 — 8:00am, 10:00am, 12:15pm (Latin Traditional)

WINTER HOLIDAY SCHEDULE ~ ST. AGNES MISSION CHURCH

Our Lady of Guadalupe
December 12 — 6:00am (Las Mananitas) 7:00pm Mass (Spanish)

Nightly Posadas
December 16 - 24 — 7:00pm (In the Social Hall)

Annual Christmas Pageant
December 19 — 6:30pm (In the Social Hall)

Christmas Eve Mass
December 24 — 7:00pm (English), 8:30pm (Spanish)

Christmas Day Mass
December 25 — 10:00am

New Year's Day Mass
January 1 — 9:00am

A CANDLE
psalm
FOR THE SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT
psalm 126
TWO CANDLES ARE LIT

Two candles aglow;
In their brightness behold
The lord's messenger,
As the prophets foretold.
Let darkness depart
As God's daylight draws near,
The dawn of our Lord's
Reawakened new year.

The people in darkness
have seen a great light;
Those dwelling in shadows
Rejoice at the sight:
God's messenger see
In the temple appear,
Refining, preparing -
Redemption is here!

Oh, stir up our hearts, Lord,
The way to prepare
For your own dear Son
To draw near us, to share
His light for our path,
For our conflicts his strength,
That, darkness defeated,
We join him at length.

Pope Benedict XVI has decided that this year from June 19, 2009 - June 19, 2010 will be declared "Year for Priests". Please join us as we pray for the following priests on their designated day.

Sunday, December 13 ~ Rev. Raul Marta

Monday, December 14 ~ Rev. Msgr. Loydell J. Marth

Tuesday, December 15 ~ Rev. Efrain Martinez

Wednesday, December 16 ~ Rev. Michael E. McAndrew C.Ss.R

Thursday, December 17 ~Rev. Msgr. Patrick J. McCormick

Friday, December 18 ~ Rev. Msgr. Gilbert R. Meyer

Saturday, December 19 ~ Rev. Msgr. Walter Minhoto

Sunday December 13
St. Vincent de Paul Collection This weekend
GIFT Classes on break until January 17
H/S Spanish Confirmation-1st & 2nd Yr on break to January 10
Spanish Pre-Confirmation Class on break to January 10
Spanish Jr. High on break to January 10

9:30am	Sunday Pre School	Room #24
9:30am	Children's Liturgy of the Word	
11:00am	Children's Liturgy of the Word	
1:00pm	Children's Liturgy of the Word - Spanish	
2:30pm	Infant Baptisms-English	Main Sanctuary

Monday December 14

12:00pm	AA Meeting	Choir Loft
5:00pm	Legion of Mary	Board Room
6:00pm	Children's Choir Practice-Spanish	Choir Loft
6:30pm	Spanish Adult Sacrament Class	Room #21
7:00pm	**Advent Penance Service**	**Main Sanctuary**
7:00pm	Twin Hearts Rosary	Room #22

Tuesday December 15
RCIIA on Break until January 5, 2010
Study of Proverbs Series-On Break to January 5, 2010

6:30am	Men's Christians in Commerce	Parish Library
6:30pm	Intercessory Prayer Group	Chapel
6:30pm	Celebrate Recovery	Room #23
6:30pm	Jr. High EDGE Program	Hall
6:30pm	Boy Scouts	Room #24
6:30pm	Filipino Holiday Mass (Simbang Gabi)	Chapel
7:00pm	Deacon Valdez Bible Study	Room #21
7:00pm	St. Anthony School Christmas Program	Event Center
7:30pm	AA Meeting	Choir Loft

Milestones

Happy 40th Wedding Anniversary to:
Ronald and Roberta (Tucker) Genini on December 20, 2009.
Married at St. Paul Newman Ctr, Fresno
and
Happy 30th Wedding Anniversary to:
Danny and Lynn (O'Reilly) on December 8,2009.
Married at Mission San Luis Obispo

May both of these wonderful couples celebrate many happy, healthy years with God's abundant Blessings
Congratulations!

Happy Birthday to two favorite volunteers:
Mrs. Virginia Pritchard on December 16
Mrs. Monica Habibe on December 8
May God continue to shower you with His many blessings!

Wednesday December 16
Spanish RCIA on Break to Jan 7

6:30am	Christians in Commerce	Conference Room
8:45am	Sunday Morning Reflection	Board Room
10:00am	Marian Rosary for Priests	Board Room
6:30pm	Centering Prayer	Board Room
6:30pm	Cenacles of Life	Parish Library
6:30pm	Life Teen Core Group Meeting	Conference Room
6:30pm	Filipino Holiday Mass (Simbang Gabi)	Chapel
7:00pm	St. Anthony's Adult Choir Practice	Room #22
7:00pm	Spanish Charismatic Prayer Group	Room #24
7:00pm	Child Care for Spanish Groups	Room #23

Thursday December 17
Women's Bible Study Class on Break until Jan 7
Camino del Fe Bible Study on Break to Jan 6

6:00am	Deacon Valdez Men's Bible Study	Board Room
9:00am	Cenacles	Board Room
6:30pm	Spanish Youth Choir Practice	Choir Loft
6:30pm	Divorced/Separated Support Group	Parish Library
6:30pm	Filipino Holiday Mass (Simbang Gabi)	Chapel
7:00pm	St Anthony School Christmas Program	Event Center
7:30pm	Spanish Adult Choir Practice	Choir Loft

Friday December 18
St Anthony School Christmas Break begins @12:30pm
Spanish Jr. High on Break to Jan 8

6:00pm	Posada	Event Center & Hall
6:30pm	Filipino Holiday Mass (Simbang Gabi)	Chapel
6:30pm	Milinium Notes Choir Practice	Choir Loft
7:30pm	English Charismatic Prayer Group	Room #23

Saturday December 19

9:00am	Infant Baptisms-Spanish	Main Sanctuary
11:00am-12:00pm	Confessions	Chapel
2:30pm-4:30pm	Confessions	Chapel

December 12-13 2009: Envelopes are available in the pews this weekend for the Diocesan Collection to benefit Retired Religious Brothers and sisters. As quoted by Pope Benedict XVI, " I invite everyone to thank the Lord for the Precious Gift of these Brothers and Sisters. You may place your donation in the regular collection. Thank you for your prayerful consideration

Saturday December 26
Confessions will not be offered!

Please Note: The Parish Office will close at noon on December 24 and will re-open on Tuesday December 29. There will be a staff person on call for emergencies.

SERRAN PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS ~
PRAYER TO BLESSED JUNIPERO SERRA FOR VOCATIONS

O God, Who will not the death of a sinner but rather that he be converted and live, grant we beseech you, through the intercession of the Blessed Mary ever Virgin, Saint Joseph, her spouse, Blessed Junipero Serra, and all the saints, an increase of laborers for your Church, fellow laborers with Christ to spend and consume themselves for souls through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, Who lives and reigns with You, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God forever and ever. Amen.

Readings and Mass Intentions for The Third Sunday of Advent
(December 13 ~ December 20 2009)

Sunday **December 13 ~ Zep 3:14-18a; Is 12:2-3, 4, 5-6;Phil 4:4-7; Lk 3:10-18; Third Sunday of Advent**
8:00 Jane, Linda & Solag by George Dalition
9:30 John & Anna Costa by J. Costa
11:00 Frank Z. Garcia by Joan Ensher & Betty Uggla
1:00 Intentions of the Gonzalez & Rubio Families By Lourdes Gonzalez
3:30 Ellen Escandon by Mario & Laquita Manfredi
6:00 Pro Populo

Monday **December 14 ~ Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a; Mt 21:23-27**
6:45 Chris Chavez by Rudy & Dolores Chavez
8:00 Scott Iteen by George & Eleen Iteen

Tuesday **December 15 ~ Zep 3:1-2, 9-13; Mt 21:28-32**
6:45 Maria Jose Rodrigues by Sisters of the Community
8:00 Intentions of Charlene Devere by St. Anthony's ICF #308

Wednesday **December 16 ~ Is 45:6b-8, 18, 21b-25; Lk 7:18b-23**
6:45 Richard Timsak by Sarah Cardoza
8:00 Intentions: (B-Day) Virginia Pritchard

Thursday **December 17 ~ Gn 49:2, 8-10; Mt 1:1-17**
6:45 Muffy Hayden by Marian Burns
8:00 Nick Papac by Fritz & Sally Lauritzen

Friday **December 18 ~ Jer 23:5-8; Mt 1:18-25**
6:45 Craig Singer by Lisa & Brent Smittcamp
8:45 Pietro & Davidina Mastrocinque by Rosanna Lampman

Saturday **December 19 ~ Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a; Lk 1:5-25**
8:00 Paolo Pecora by Angelo & Antoinette Pecora
5:15 Tom Martinez by Rick Martinez & family

Sunday **December 20 ~ Mi 5:1-4a; Ps 80; Heb 10:5-10;Lk 1:39-45 Fourth Sunday of Advent**
8:00 Vera DeMera by Joan & Jim Gaskins
9:30 Peggy Samson by Francis Samson
11:00 Peter Sciaroni by The Sciaroni Family
1:00 Gilbert A. Barbo por Petra Barbo
3:30 Pro Populo
6:00 Thomas Olson by Marketa Limova

Banns of Marriage

The following couples will marry in the coming weeks:

Joaquin De La O and Melodia Chavez

If you know of any canonical reason for them not to be married, please contact the parish office.

INFANT BAPTISMS:
Contact the Baptism Secretary at the Parish Office at least 2-3 months before you wish to schedule the baptism. The parents and godparents **must** attend a scheduled class.

ANOINTING of the SICK:
Please inform the Parish Office of anyone who may be in need of an anointing.

COMMUNION & VISITATION of the HOME-BOUND:
Please inform the Ministry Office of sick or elderly who are at home, in hospitals or in convalescent homes.

MARRIAGE:
Contact the marriage coordinator a minimum of 6 months before the preferred wedding date. Marriage preparation classes are available.

FIRST RECONCILIATION & FIRST EUCHARIST:
Contact the GIFT/Children's Religious Education Coordinator. Two years of Religious Education preparation is required prior to receiving First Eucharist (Communion). First Reconciliation (Confession) is usually received several months before First Communion.

ADULT BAPTISM, FIRST EUCHARIST & CONFIRMATION:
Contact the RICA/Adult Religious Education Coordinator. Classes are held Tuesday evening. No pre-registration necessary.

YOUTH CONFIRMATION:
Candidates for Confirmation must be at least 16 years of age, preparation begins in Sophomore year of High School.
A two-year preparation is required by the Diocese. Contact the Confirmation Secretary or Youth Minister.

Recently Requested:

Louise & John Buffo by J. Silva
Eleanro Van Deelan by Mark & Janet Cameron
RoseMary Jucksch by The Frye's
Bob Zallicoffer by Richard & Mary Downs
George Baustista by Clergy & Staff of St Anthony's

Intentions:

Ellie Huston by The Frye's
Andre Wilson by The Frye's
Helen Cardoza by Catherine & Mike Jameson

Pray for the Sick

We pray for Janet Esquivel, Manuel Duenes and all those who are sick.
May they feel the healing power of our prayers.

Condolences

We pray for William NeVille, Joseph Renna and all the faithful departed.

NEWLY BAPTIZED INFANTS

We welcome the infants who were recently initiated into the family of Christ. May they always feel the love of God working through their lives as they are guided by their parents and godparents.

Gian Carlo Pangamban De Guzman,
Niko Francisco Rios– Cuevas,
Larissa Moreno

ADVENT GIVING TREE

THANK you for your support of our Advent Giving Tree. Holy Cross Center for Women and Catholic Charities thank you for your loving support of this parish tradition.

Tamales provided by TOMASA'S

LifeTeen has your prepaid orders ready for pick up.
We will be in the conference room from 8:30am - 1:00pm. Thank you for your support.
Questions call Sharon at 439-0124 x111.

LIFE TEEN

Join us for our LifeNights on Sunday nights following the 6:00pm Liturgy. Sessions end at 9:00pm.We meet (& are dismissed) by the glass doors of the Social Hall. A different topic is discussed each evening.

ALL HIGH SCHOOL TEENS WELCOME!!!

Thank you to all the core members for all your time, energy and enthusiasm.

NO LifeTeen Tonight

DECEMBER 13 ~ ONE HUMAN FAMILY

Merry Christmas ***NO*** Life night until January 10th

JANUARY 10 ~ LIFE NIGHT

For more information please contact, Sharon Christison at 439-0124 ext 111

EDGE

All 6th, 7th & 8th Grade Youth!
Tuesdays 6:30 - 7:45pm in the Social Hall

12/15: Confirmation: we are called. . .
Also, the Advent Season

NO EDGE:
12/22, 12/29, 1/5

CU JANUARY 12, 2010!

THURSDAY 12/10
2nd Year Sacrament Preparation Class
Room 17, 6:30 - 7:45pm

For more information, please call
Sarah Moreno at 439-0124 ext. 110.

"Peace begins with a smile. Smile five times a day at someone you really don't want to smile at… do it for peace." **- Blessed Teresa of Calcutta**

G.I.F.T.
Growing In Faith Together
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION K - 5th grades

Classes are held on:
Sundays: 3:30 - 4:45 pm or Tuesdays: 6:30 - 7:45 pm
Contact: Mary Briseño at 439-0124 ext. 119
mbriseno@stanthonyfresno.org

"Peace is a gift of God; but men and women must first accept this gift in order to a build a peaceful world. People can do this only if they have childlike simplicity of heart." ***- Pope John Paul II***

Reflection…..

- We should rejoice that the God of the universe is so close to us, so present to us that He actually humbles Himself to be within us (and within those around us).
- You cannot have true love without justice. Justice flows from a loving heart. The Gospel isn't just good news…it's great news.

Mary said: "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word." Luke 1:38

Lord Jesus, I know that I try to control too much of my life. Help me to repent and to learn to look to you for the nourishment that I need to grow.

Henri J.M. Nouwen - In Joyful Hope, Meditations for Advent

24 HOUR PERPETUAL ADORATION CHAPEL

Urgent Hour Adorers & Hour Captains Needed!

Friday, 10pm—Saturdays, 12noon, 4pm & 5pm & Sunday, 1pm & Christmas Day!

Please let us be <u>vigilant</u> during the Season of Christmas that 'Our Lord' is not left alone…

If you cannot make your hour please contact your Captain or Leader at: 439-0124, ext., 106, so they can schedule someone to take your place. Thank you.

"If we really loved the good God, we should make it our joy and happiness to come and spend a few moments to adore Him, and ask for the grace of forgiveness; and we should regard those moment as the happiest of our lives."

~St. John Vianney

Love & Gratitude from the Office of Ministries! We would like to thank all our volunteers from the bottom of our hearts for helping us making this year's Annual Memorial Mass such a memorable one. God has truly blessed our Parish with such wonderful parishioners who give so much of their time and talent. May the Spirit of Christmas fill your hearts with joy & hope with a New Year filled with God's love always...

"How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy we have in the presence of our God because of you?" ~1 Thes 3:9

"ST. ANN'S BRIDGE CLUB"

This group will meet Monday, December 14th, at 12:30pm in the Conference Room. Contact: Carol at: 439-9114 or Claire 431-5795. Newcomers are welcome!

St. Anthony's Church will *<u>NOT</u>* be having a Food Drive in December!

However, please remember **Catholic Charities** at **Christmas time**. If you'd like to make a monetary donation, please send it to:

Catholic Charities
149 N. Fulton St. Fresno, CA 93701

Catholic Charities would also like to thank everyone for their generosity & support throughout the year in helping to provide for those who are most need. May God bless you all abundantly!

If you have any questions please contact Rick & Kathy Martinez at: 431-3398. **Food Drive in January!**

Jesus said, "I was hungry & you fed me, I was naked and you clothed me." ~Mt. 25

ATTENTION TO ALL MINISTRY GROUPS

The Parish Office will close at ***<u>12:00 noon</u>*** on **Christmas Eve, *<u>closed</u>* Christmas Day, New Year's Eve & New Year's Day**. Classes resume after the New Year! Please be sure to inform your groups. and check the bulletin for dates or call the Office of Ministries at: 439-0124, ext. 105 or 112.

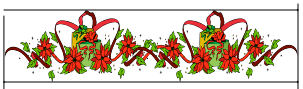
Merry Christmas Blessings to you & your families & A Happy New Year filled with God's love...

NO WOMEN'S THURSDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

This group will resume after the New Year. Thursday, January 7, 2010 @ 10:00am –11am in Room #21
Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!
If you have any questions, please call the Office of Ministries at: 439-0124, ext. 105.

"When the angels went away from them to heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go, then, to Bethlehem to see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made know to us." ~Luke 1:15

There will be <u>NO</u>* TAIZE PRAYER SERVICE *in DECEMBER, see you in January!



SILVER LEAVES SENIOR MINISTRY!

Seniors...
The Silver Leaves Senior Ministry will be on winter respite during the month of January. We wish you a blessed Christmas and look forward to seeing you in February 2010!

Library Volunteers needed before and after the Masses! Please call Leona at: 432-5435. Thank you!

Meals with Wheels Ministry

During the Christmas Holidays, we have many parishioners who occasionally are in need of a warm meal and cannot cook for themselves due to surgery or illness.

As Scripture says...

"If I have all faith so as to move mountains but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away everything I own, and if I hand my body over so that I may boast but do not have love, I gain nothing."

~ 1 Corth 13:2,3

Please allow us to reach out and help...Call us at: 559-439-0124, ext. 105.

CENTERING PRAYER

This group meets in the **Parish Office Boardroom on Wednesday's at 6:30pm.** Come join us for our new study; which will be an **Audio Study: "Healing Our Violence through the journey of centering prayer"** by Richard Rohr O.F.M. and Thomas Keating O.C.S.O. Newcomers are welcome. If you have any questions about our class, please contact: Kevin or Lisa Carry at: 271-3259.

'A Happy Life Is A Life For Others'

Give and gifts will be given to you; a good measure, packed together, shaken down, and overflowing, will be poured into your lap. For the measure with which you measure will in turn be measured out to you.

Luke 6:38

Have you ever noticed the joy of a mother when she sees her baby smile? The baby's smile is a gift to the mother who is grateful to see her baby so happy!

What a wonderful mystery this is! Our greatest fulfillment lies in giving ourselves to others. Although it often seems that people give only to receive. I believe that, beyond all our desires to be appreciated, rewarded and acknowledged, there lies a simple and pure desire to give. I remember how I once spent long hours looking in Dutch stores for a birthday gift for my father or mother, simply enjoying being able to give. Our humanity comes to its fullest bloom in giving. We become beautiful people when we give whatever we can give: a smile, a handshake, a kiss, an embrace, a word of love, a present, a part of our life. . .all of our life. . .

It is sad to see that, in our highly competitive and greedy world, we have lost touch with the joy of giving. We often love as if our happiness depended on having. But I don't know anyone who is really happy because of what he or she has. True joy, happiness and inner peace come from the giving of ourselves to others. A happy life is a life for others.

Is there genuine joy of giving in the way I handle Christmas shopping and gift-giving? What do I need to do to make my Christmas giving a source of joy for myself and others?

Henri J.M. Nouwen - In Joyful Hope, Meditations for Advent

Christ is the Heart of Christmas

When You Unpack the First Christmas Decorations

As familiar as many of the decorations are after being used year after year, there is always something new and exciting about getting them out again. You see one or two you may have forgotten about. Others have **special memories attached to them.** They were in your home all the time, but now you are getting ready to **use** them.

The story of God's love in Christ is like that. It's there all the time. We know about it because we have experienced it before in the sacraments or in God's special graces. And yet each "unpacking" can be new and exciting. If we approach it with eager anticipation.

God's love and grace have been there all the time, waiting to be used!

As you unpack the decorations, recall the times in your life when God's love had the most impact on you.

PRAY TODAY, that your faith, as old as your Baptism, may be a new experience of the Holy Spirit's love and power in your life.

When You Attend Mass or Special Advent Services

Advent often means extra trips to church for Mass and reception of the sacraments and special services. At the start of Advent, you may be enthusiastic. But that mood can change. Are there times when you feel it's a bother to go to Mass during the holiday season? And if so, does this suggest that we may even need to ask forgiveness for our poor attendance, for not going when we might, or for not really having our whole heart in it when we do?

We must remember that the Mass and sacraments are not some kind of "favor we do for God", but - as always - **a favor he does for us**, another opportunity to hear of His love for us Christ, an opportunity for His Holy Spirit to rekindle and strengthen our faith in Christ, who is the Heart - the Source and the Goal - of all our worship.

When you go to Mass, remember you are meeting and receiving the same Lord whose birth we celebrate this season

PRAY TODAY, for the ability truly to listen to the message of the Church's holiday liturgy.

The **St. Benedict Catholic Worker**, needs your help in bringing "warm winter comfort" for the people they serve (our thirteenth year!) in front of Fresno County Jail. The Catholic Worker is asking for donations of Nestlé instant hot chocolate packets (60 packets = $5.99) and Folgers large jars of instant coffee ($8.00). Both items are available at Costco. For the price of one "happy meal" at McDonald's, you can bring the warmth of Christ's love to those in need. All donations are tax deductible. For further information, please call Liza Apper @ 977-3648.

As I come to work at Catholic Charities each day down on Fulton St., I see the lines of people waiting to be served. This is the day they will find out if they are going to leave our office warm or cold like they were when they arrived, or if they will receive food to feed their hungry family. Knowing that we might have to turn them away because we are out of warm clothes or food is devastating and mind boggling.

I feel that God has blessed all of us with so much and my hope for this season of giving in this tough economy is that we all find it in our hearts to help those less fortunate than we. It is my prayer that we don't have to send any one person away empty handed, without warm clothes to protect them from the bitter nights in December and January and to nourish their bodies with food. To make donations or volunteer, please call Kelly Lilles at 559-237-0851 or go to our website at www.ccdof.org. Thank you and God bless you this Advent Season.

KNXT

St. Anthony's Christmas Pageant 2003 will broadcast three times this year!

Wednesday, December 16 @ 8:30pm
Thursday, December 17 @ 11:30am
Sunday, December 20 @ 6:00pm

The Christmas Pageant from 2006 (Miracle on Main Street) will air Wednesday, December 23 @ 8:30pm, Thursday December 24 @ 11:30am and Sunday, December 27 @ 6:00pm

Homemade Christmas Cookies Needed!

The St. Benedict Catholic Worker is asking for donations of homemade Christmas Cookies for their annual Christmas dinner in front of Fresno County Jail on Monday, December 21. Donations of cookies must reach us by Friday, December 18 so that we can package them in individual decorated boxes. Homemade cookies send the message of God loves to those who are in need. Christmas candy and candy canes are also needed.

For further information and other volunteer opportunities, please call Liza at the SBCW House at 229-6410.

Sister Disciples of the Divine Master
275-9978

What: Advent Retreat
for young single women ages 18 - 30

When: Saturday, December 19

Time: 9:00 - 3:00pm

Bring: Sacklunch, Bible, notebook and pen

Contact: Sr. M. Tiziana or Pauline at 275-9978

Donations accepted

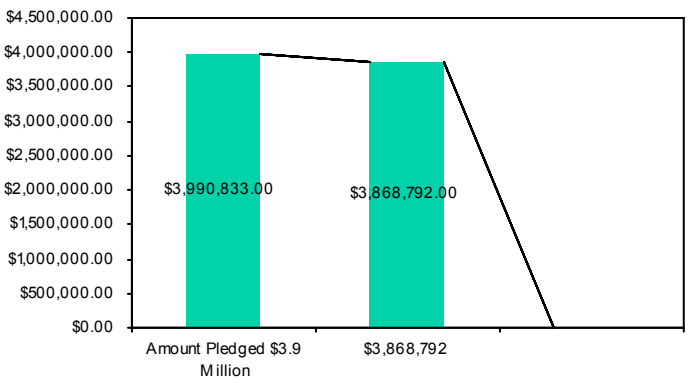
IN JESUS

In Jesus all broken lines unite.
In Jesus, all scattered sounds are gathered in harmony.
Phillips Brooks

Building Fund Pledges & Gifts For Our Community Center

Amount Pledged	Amount Received
As of January 2008	As of 11/9/09
$3,990,833	$3,868,792

Thank you for your continued generosity and support!



For the weekend of December 6, 2009

This week's plate income: **$24,767.65**
Last year's plate income: **$25,944.73**

For the month of November

November plate income*	$114,122.77
November total income**	$143,856.85
November total expenses	$149,403.64

*The month of November included 5 weekends
**Includes other donations

Take Your Relationship to a Whole New Level!

Learn the Essentials! Acquire the Skills! Live the Ideal!

Replace questions with answers. Exchange anxieties for hope. Turn isolation into intimacy. Gain a mastery of love.

Mastering the Mysteries of Love (MML) is an interactive, hands-on program that spotlights on ten essential relationship skills that work together to change how people listen, talk, solve problems, and relate to one another.

Next classes start **January 8, 2010** from 6:00pm - 8:40pm for 6 weeks.

For more information Contact: Edgar at 439-0124 ext. 173
St. Anthony of Padua

Cub Scout Pack 223 will be selling **See's Candies** for their annual fundraiser Saturday and Sunday, **December 12 & 13** after the 5:15pm Mass and all morning Masses. Find a cub scout outside the Church and buy a sweet treat for everyone on your Christmas list! Thank you for your support!

The members of the Candlelight Guild are asking for your participation as a sponsor of our primary fundraising event. This year we will be celebrating our anniversary with **"A Royal Christmas Ball"**, to be held December 12 at the Weber BMW showroom. This year's beneficiaries are:

Catholic Charities of Fresno County
Fresno Area Downs Syndrome Association
The Fresno Serra Club

Our sponsors are crucial in helping the Candlelight Guild generate funding for these three worthy causes. This will be an elegant evening of fine dining and dancing in the spirit of Christmas and in commemorating our Guild's 60th anniversary.

For information on how to be a sponsor and the different levels of sponsorship, please contact Julie Beecher at 243-1093 or Stacy Roque at 352-8405.

Walk for Life West Coast
San Francisco

Calling all parishioners and ministries of St. Anthony of Padua to participate as a parish group in the 2010 6th Annual Walk for Life West Coast in San Francisco! St. Anthony of Padua Respect Life Committee invites you to ride our own bus (or buses?) for just $24 per person on **Saturday, January 23, 2010**. Great for the whole family! Check it out at www. walkforlifewc.com!

Call Roberta Genini at 435-7667 or email her at r_genini@yahoo.com to sign up.

O Holy Spirit**, Spirit of wisdom and divine love, impart Your knowledge, understanding, and counsel to youth that they may know the vocation wherein they can best serve God. Give them courage and strength to follow God's holy will. Guide their uncertain steps, strengthen their resolutions, shield their chastity, fashion their minds, conquer their hearts, and lead them to the vineyards where they will labor in God's holy service.* ***Amen

AN ADVENT PRAYER

May the God of peace make us completely holy.
May God keep us blameless in spirit, soul and body
for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.
Forever faithful is the One who calls us - God our Father!
Expectant, let us live in joyful hope
for the revelation of the glory
of our God and Savior, Christ Jesus!
To him be glory forever!
Come, Lord Jesus! Your grace be with us all.

—From *Come, Lord Jesus* by Lucien Deiss, CSSp, copyright 1976, 1981, Lucien Deiss. Published by World Library Publications. p. 127

St. Agnes Mission Church
111 W. Birch St

December 19 ~ Christmas Tamale Sale 12:00 - 4:00pm
Please call your orders in advanced to the Parish Office (439-2100).

St. Agnes Mission Church
Bible Study - Basic Apologetics 101

Where: **St. Agnes Mission Church.**
Pinedale (Msgr. Flood Hall)

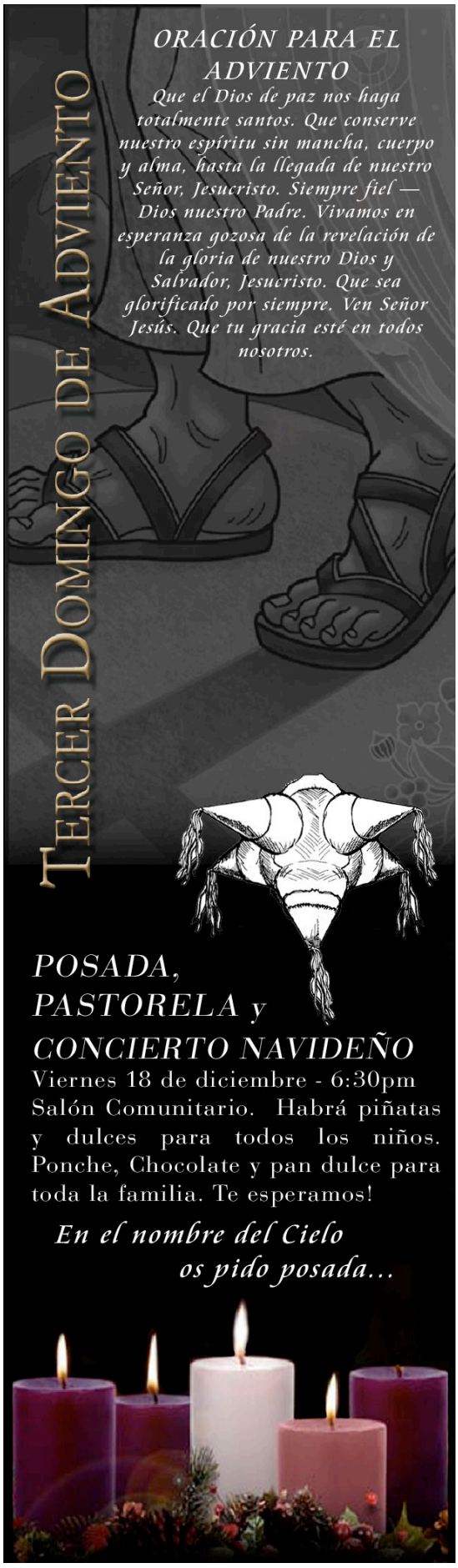
When: ***Every Thursday*** (NO class December 24 & 31)
Class will resume Thursday, January 3

Time: **7:00 - 8:30pm**

Presented by: ***Vince Liscano***

Topics: Why do we pray to Mary & the Saints?
And much more . . don't forget to bring your Bibles.

Contact: ***Annette at 439-2100***



Tercer Domingo de Adviento

¡Alégrense! El Señor está cerca. Presenten sus peticiones a Dios (Filipenses 4:4-7).

¡REGOCIJATE!

Hoy, el Tercer Domingo de Adviento, tradicionalmente se lo llama el Domingo de *Gaudete*. Es el domingo de gozo del Adviento. La primera lectura, el salmo responsorial, y la segunda lectura nos llaman a expresar alegría de tres maneras. Nos dicen: den "gritos de júbilo" (Sofonías 3:14), "griten de alegría" (Isaías 12:6), y "alégrense siempre en el Señor" (Filipenses 4:4). Expresar gozo cristiano es muy distinto del tipo de contento que manifestamos cuando, por ejemplo, nuestro equipo deportivo favorito gana un partido importante. Este tipo de alegría es pasajero. El gozo cristiano es una paz interior y felicidad espiritual que se desarrolla a lo largo de nuestra vida y nos sostiene aun en las luchas. Es una alegría contagiosa. Otros se percatan de que sencillamente hay algo diferente en nosotros. Regocijémonos hoy, pues nos llegará el Emmanuel.

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LAS POSADAS

El miércoles 16 de diciembre comienzan las Posadas.

Significado de la Tradición de las Posadas.

Las posadas son un medio para preparar con alegría y oración nuestro corazón para la venida de Jesucristo, y para recordar y vivir los momentos que pasaron José y María antes del Nacimiento de Jesús.

CALENDARIO:

CLASES DE DOCTRINA y *Reuniones de Apoyo Familiar* **FAMILIAS DE FE**

- Clases y reuniones del domingo reanudan el 17 de enero, 2010

CONFIRMACIÓN

- Clases reanudan el 10 de enero, 2010

CAMINOS

Programa de Sacramento para Adultos

- Próxima reunión - 13 de enero, 2010

- **Lunes 14** de diciembre. Servicio de Penitencia (confesiones) 7:00pm

- **Viernes 18** de diciembre. Pastorela, Posada y Concierto Navideño. Salón Comunitario.

BENDICIÓN A IMÁGENES DE NIÑOS DIOS

- Domingo, 20 de diciembre durante la misa de 1:00pm

EN JESÚS

En Jesús todas las líneas rotas se unen. En Jesús, todos los sonidos dispersos se juntan en armonía. —Phillips Brooks

La Ofrenda Navideña

Querido Señor,
enséñame a ser generoso.
Enséñame a servirte como tú te lo mereces;
a dar sin contar el costo;
a luchar sin reparar en las heridas,
a laborar sin buscar descanso,
a trabajar sin pedir recompensa,
si no es sabiendo que cumplo tu voluntad. *San Ignacio de Loyola*

En mi amor por la Casa de mi Dios, doy a la casa de mi Dios el oro y la plata que tengo. 1 Crónicas 29:3